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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Ludmilla BARANOVA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/076,956

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: May 13, 1988

Examiner: L. Crane

Title: PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF NUCLEIC ACIDS ON A SOLID SUPPORT  
AND COMPOUNDS WHICH ARE USEFUL IN PARTICULAR AS SOLID  
SUPPORTS IN THE SAID PROCESS

## AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

COPY

Sir:

Applicants submit the instant amendment in response to the Office action  
mailed August 5, 1998.

## IN THE CLAIMS

~~Cancel claims 18-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.~~

~~Add the following claims.~~

~~32. A solid support for the synthesis of a nucleic acid comprising:~~

~~a) an organic or inorganic polymer coupled to~~

~~b) a divalent hydrocarbon radical containing first and second adjacent carbon~~

~~atoms, said first adjacent carbon atom bonded to a hydroxy group and said second  
adjacent carbon atom bonded to a nucleophilic group that can cleave a 3' or 5'  
phosphate, phosphite or phosphorothioate group from a nucleotide monomer through  
a one step  $\beta$ -elimination reaction.~~

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